IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during top charging of the coking coal, comprising a housing connectable to the leveler door opening ~~so as to form a seal~~, said door opening at least partially defined by a cross-sectional area of said coke oven chamber, a leveler bar ~~guided into~~ guidable in said leveler door opening, said leveler bar including at least two side segments and at least one cross segment connecting said two side segments, said housing provided with ~~means for sealing~~ a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said cross-sectional area of said leveler door opening, a ~~regulable~~ regulatable exhaust fan connected to said housing and a flow measuring ~~means~~ mechanism at ~~a location within~~ least partially positioned in said housing, said flow measuring mechanism at least partially controlling said regulatable exhaust fan.

17. (Previously Added) The device of claim 16, said exhaust fan including an outlet connected to an adjacent coke oven chamber.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, ~~including~~ wherein said leveler bar includes at least two of said cross segments and at least two sealing plates arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below over an area between said two cross segments and including a sealing ~~means for sealing~~ mechanism to at least partially seal said side segments of said leveler bar adjacent said leveler door opening.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 18, wherein sealing strips and said sealing plates and ~~said sealing strips~~ are provided with press-on means.

20. (Previously Added) The device of claim 18, wherein said sealing plates are held in said housing by a partial vacuum, said partial vacuum pressing said sealing plates against said leveler bar.

21. (Previously Added) The device of claim 18, wherein said sealing plates are beveled.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 18, including a plurality of said sealing plates and a plurality of ~~said~~ sealing strips being arranged one behind the other in an axial direction, said axial direction defining a thrust direction for said leveler bar.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 18, wherein said housing at least partially surrounds ~~is formed by~~ said sealing plates and said side segments of said leveler bar.

24. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during top charging of the coking coal comprising a housing connectable to the leveler door opening so as to form a seal, said door opening defined by a cross-sectional area of said coke oven chamber, a leveler bar guided into said leveler door opening including at least two side segments and at least one cross segment connecting said two side segments, said housing provided with ~~means for~~ a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said cross-sectional area of said leveler door opening, and at least one movable sealing element ~~for sealing~~ to at least partially seal an inner cross section of said leveler bar between said side segments, said at least one movable sealing element includes at least one rotary lock, at least one cell wheel, at least one movable roller and combinations thereof.

Claims 25 and 26 (canceled).

27. (Previously Added) The device of claim 26, including at least one sealing plate being arranged in said housing.

Claim 28 (canceled).

29. (Previously Added) A method for sealing a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during the leveling process, including providing a housing and guiding a leveler bar

therethrough, forming a seal between said leveler door opening and said leveler bar and exhausting a gas from said housing, the improvement comprising regulating said gas exhaustion by measuring the flow of gas in the area of the leveler door opening and controlling the rate of said gas exhaustion in order that there is no gas flow at the measuring location.

30. (New) A device to seal a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during top charging of the coking coal, comprising a housing at least partially connectable to the leveler door opening, said door opening at least partially defined by a cross-sectional area of said coke oven chamber, a leveler bar at least partially moveable in said housing and guidable in said leveler door opening, said leveler bar including at least two side segments and at least one cross segment connecting said two side segments, said housing provided with a sealing mechanism to at least partially prevent gas from escaping between said housing and said leveler door opening, a regulatable exhaust fan connected to said housing, and a flow measuring mechanism at least partially positioned in said housing, said flow measuring mechanism measuring gas flow primarily entering said housing from said coke oven chamber, said flow measuring mechanism at least partially controlling said regulatable exhaust fan to control a flowrate a gas from said housing so as to substantially reduce the flow of gas from said coke oven chamber into said housing.

31. (New) The device as defined in claim 30, wherein said housing includes a first end and a second end, said first end at least partially connectable to the leveler door opening and said second end telescopically receiving at least a portion of said leveler arm, said flow measuring mechanism at least partially controlling said regulatable exhaust fan to control said flowrate a gas from said housing and substantially preventing gas flow out said send end of said housing.

32. (New) The device as defined in 30, wherein said regulatable exhaust fan at least partially directs gas into an adjacent coke oven chamber.

33. (New) The device as defined in 31, wherein said regulatable exhaust fan at least partially directs gas into an adjacent coke oven chamber.

34. (New) The device as defined in claim 30, wherein said leveler bar includes at least two of said cross segments and at least two sealing plates arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below over an area between said two cross segments, said leveler bar including a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said side segments of said leveler bar positioned at least closely adjacent said leveler door opening.

35. (New) The device as defined in claim 33, wherein said leveler bar includes at least two of said cross segments and at least two sealing plates arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below over an area between said two cross segments, said leveler bar including a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said side segments of said leveler bar positioned at least closely adjacent said leveler door opening.

36. (New) The device as defined in claim 30, including a seal mechanism to at least partially form a leveler seal between an outer surface of said leveler bar and an interior surface of said housing, said leveler seal including sealing strips, sealing plates and combinations thereof.

37. (New) The device as defined in claim 35, including a seal mechanism to at least partially form a leveler seal between an outer surface of said leveler bar and an interior surface of said housing, said leveler seal including sealing strips, sealing plates and combinations thereof.

38. (New) The device as defined in claim 36, wherein said leveler seal is provided with press-on means.

39. (New) The device as defined in claim 37, wherein said leveler seal is provided with press-on means.

40. (New) The device as defined in claim 36, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially held in said housing by a partial vacuum, said partial vacuum at least partially causing said sealing plates to press against said leveler bar.

41. (New) The device as defined in claim 39, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially held in said housing by a partial vacuum, said partial vacuum at least partially causing said sealing plates to press against said leveler bar.

42. (New) The device as defined in claim 36, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially beveled.

43. (New) The device as defined in claim 41, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially beveled.

44. (New) The device as defined in claim 36, wherein a plurality of said sealing plates and a plurality of sealing strips are arranged one behind the other in an axial direction, said axial direction defining a thrust direction for said leveler bar.

45. (New) The device as defined in claim 34, wherein a plurality of said sealing plates and a plurality of sealing strips are arranged one behind the other in an axial direction, said axial direction defining a thrust direction for said leveler bar.

46. (New) A device to seal a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during top charging of the coking coal, comprising a housing at least partially connectable to the leveler door opening, said door opening at least partially defined by a cross-sectional area of said coke oven chamber, a leveler bar at least partially moveable in said housing and guidable in said leveler door opening, said leveler bar including at least two side segments and at least one cross segment connecting said two side segments, said housing provided with a sealing mechanism to at least partially prevent gas from escaping between said housing and said leveler door opening, and at least one movable sealing element to at least partially seal an inner cross section of said leveler bar between said side segments.

47. (New) The device as defined in claim 46, wherein said at least one movable sealing element includes at least one rotary lock, at least one cell wheel, at least one movable roller and combinations thereof.

48. (New) The device as defined in claim 46, including a plurality of moveable sealing elements.

49. (New) The device as defined in claim 47, including a plurality of moveable sealing elements.

50. (New) The device as defined in claim 47, wherein said at least one rotary lock is hingably connected to said housing.

51. (New) The device as defined in claim 49, wherein said at least one rotary lock is hingably connected to said housing.

52. (New) The device as defined in claim 47, wherein said at least one cell wheel is hingably connected to said housing at a location spaced from an end of said cell wheel, said housing including a housing to enable at least partial rotation of said cell wheel within said housing.

53. (New) The device as defined in claim 46, wherein said leveler bar includes at least two of said cross segments and at least two sealing plates arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below over an area between said two cross segments, said leveler bar including a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said side segments of said leveler bar positioned at least closely adjacent said leveler door opening.

54. (New) The device as defined in claim 47, wherein said leveler bar includes at least two of said cross segments and at least two sealing plates arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below over an area between said two cross segments, said leveler bar

including a sealing mechanism to at least partially seal said side segments of said leveler bar positioned at least closely adjacent said leveler door opening.

55. (New) The device as defined in claim 46, including a seal mechanism to at least partially form a leveler seal between an outer surface of said leveler bar and an interior surface of said housing, said leveler seal including sealing strips, sealing plates and combinations thereof.

56. (New) The device as defined in claim 54, including a seal mechanism to at least partially form a leveler seal between an outer surface of said leveler bar and an interior surface of said housing, said leveler seal including sealing strips, sealing plates and combinations thereof.

57. (New) The device as defined in claim 55, wherein said leveler seal is provided with press-on means.

58. (New) The device as defined in claim 56, wherein said leveler seal is provided with press-on means.

59. (New) The device as defined in claim 55, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially held in said housing by a partial vacuum, said partial vacuum at least partially causing said sealing plates to press against said leveler bar.

60. (New) The device as defined in claim 58, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially held in said housing by a partial vacuum, said partial vacuum at least partially causing said sealing plates to press against said leveler bar.

61. (New) The device as defined in claim 55, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially beveled.

62. (New) The device as defined in claim 60, wherein said sealing plates are at least partially beveled.

63. (New) The device as defined in claim 55, wherein a plurality of said sealing plates and a plurality of sealing strips are arranged one behind the other in an axial direction, said axial direction defining a thrust direction for said leveler bar.

64. (New) The device as defined in claim 62, wherein a plurality of said sealing plates and a plurality of sealing strips are arranged one behind the other in an axial direction, said axial direction defining a thrust direction for said leveler bar.

65. (New) A method for sealing a leveler door opening of a coke oven chamber during the leveling process comprising:

a. providing a housing at least partially connectable to the leveler door opening, said door opening at least partially defined by a cross-sectional area of said coke oven chamber;

b. providing a leveler bar;

c. moving and at least partially guiding said leveler bar in said housing, said leveler bar movable into said leveler door opening; and,

d. at least partially exhausting a gas from said housing by at least partially regulating a flow the exhausted gas based at least partially upon a measured flow of gas in an area of the leveler door opening, a rate of exhausting of gas being selected to substantially reduce gas flow at the measuring location.

66. (New) The method as defined in claim 65, including the step of at least partially forming a seal between said leveler door opening and said leveler bar.

67. (New) The method as defined in claim 65, wherein said leveler bar includes at least two side segments and at least one cross segment connecting said two side segments.

68. (New) The method as defined in claim 65, including the step of providing a seal to at least partially prevent gas from escaping between said housing and said leveler door opening.

69. (New) The method as defined in claim 65, wherein said step of measuring flow of gas at least partially located in said housing and measuring gas flow primarily entering said housing from said coke oven chamber.

70. (New) The method as defined in claim 65, wherein said housing includes a first end and a second end, said first end at least partially connectable to the leveler door opening and said second end telescopically receiving at least a portion of said leveler arm, said rate of exhausted gas from said housing and substantially preventing gas flow out said send end of said housing.

71. (New) The method as defined in 65, including the step of at least partially directing said exhausted gas fan into an adjacent coke oven chamber.

72. (New) The method as defined in claim 66, wherein said seal includes at least one sealing plates, at least one sealing strip, and combinations thereof, said seal at least partially arranged within said housing to seal said leveler bar from above and below at least a portion of said leveler bar.